COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

CONGRESSMAN TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



<u>NEWS RELEASE</u>

For Immediate Release July 21, 2004

Contact: David Marin (202) 225-5074

Davis to Investigate Berger Allegations

Washington, DC – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) announced today that the Committee intends to investigate allegations that former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, in preparation for 9-11 Commission hearings, took highly sensitive terrorism documents from a secure reading room at the National Archives.

The Government Reform Committee, which has jurisdiction over the National Archives, is the primary investigative committee in the House of Representatives.

"These allegations are deeply troubling, and it's our constitutional responsibility to find out what happened and why," Davis said. "It boggles the mind to imagine how a former national security advisor walked off with this kind of material in his pants, or wherever on his body he carried it. At best, we're looking at tremendously irresponsible handling of highly classified information – some of which, I understand, has not yet been located.

"At worst, his actions suggest an intentional effort to keep critical information away from the Commission and the American public. We are now left wondering whether the Commission, set to release its report tomorrow, had access to all of the information it needed to fully do its job. The American people's faith in our review of 9-11, in our war on terror, in our transparency, is literally at stake in this investigation. It is my hope that Mr. Berger cooperates fully with the Justice Department as its investigation proceeds. Meanwhile, as we continue to afford him the presumption of innocence he deserves, we will fulfill our duty to the American people to get to the bottom of this disturbing breach of trust and protocol."

###